| Civilians | Security Personnel | Total |
|---|---|---|
| 978 | 478 | 1456 |

(b) A comprehensive welfare package for the Army, which includes *ex-gratia* lump sum compensation in a graded scale, liberalized special family pension on the basis of last pay drawn by the deceased soldier, death gratuity and family gratuity as per specified rates as applicable and Army Group Insurance Cover as applicable, has been worked out and implemented for the next of kin of those killed in enemy/terrorist action. Payment of dues is a continuing process and all benefits as applicable to the next of kin of deceased soldiers are being paid on completion of necessary documentation and on meeting of legal requirements.

**Pull out of security forces along LoC**

1515. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to pull out security forces along LoC in Jammu and Kashmir and borders in Punjab and Rajasthan has been taken under external diplomatic pressure or internal compulsions after elections in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor since the newly elected political groups in Pakistan are known for their anti-Indian hostile stances?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) On 16th October 2002, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), after deliberation and upon examination of all the aspects of the continued deployment of the armed forces along the border with Pakistan, decided that as the Armed Forces had, with great distinction, achieved the objectives assigned to them, they may now be re-deployed from position on the International Border, without impairing their capacity to respond decisively to any emergency. However, there will be no lowering of the vigil in Jammu and Kashmir. The CCS placed on record and acknowledged its wholehearted appreciation of the conduct of the Armed Forces and noted that the successful completion of the elections in Jammu and Kashmir had capped their achievements.